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**Iowa Department of Education**

***Virtual Schools in Iowa Annual Report***

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***Iowa Department of Education***

Grimes State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319

January, 2014

**State of Iowa**  
**Department of Education**  
Grimes State Office Building  
400 E 14<sup>th</sup> St  
Des Moines IA 50319-0146

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## **I. BACKGROUND**

During the 2012 legislative session, lawmakers amended Iowa Code section 256.7 to address online learning in the state of Iowa. In relevant part, the Iowa Department of Education (Department) was directed by legislation to conduct an annual survey of students attending online schools, to include not less than ten percent of the total number of students enrolled and not less than one hundred percent of students enrolled in online schools who are eligible for free and reduced price meals. In addition, CAM Community School District and Clayton Ridge Community School District shall annually submit to the Department, in the manner prescribed by the Department, data that includes but is not limited to student achievement and demographic characteristics, retention rates, and the percentage of enrolled students' active participation in extracurricular activities.

## **II. DEMOGRAPHIC AND ACHIEVEMENT DATA**

The Department has received the following demographic characteristics, achievement data, retention rates, and active participation from both the Iowa Connections Academy at CAM Community School District (hereinafter "IACA") and Iowa Virtual Academy at Clayton Ridge Community School District (hereinafter "IAVA"): (race, gender, poverty, disability, and ELL). See Appendix A.

## **III. SURVEY DATA**

The Department conducted a survey of the students enrolled in both IACA and IAVA. See Appendix B. The surveys were conducted by Department staff via telephone for the student population in Kindergarten through third grade, and through an online survey for the students enrolled in grades four through twelve. The number surveyed, number of respondents, and response rate for each school are provided below.

School	Number of responses	Number surveyed	Response rate
IACA	119	350	34.00%
IAVA	67	190	35.26%

The response rates obtained are within rates expected when conducting survey research through telephone or online methods.

## **IV. CONCLUSIONS From January 11, 2013**

As required by legislation, both IACA and IAVA have submitted the required and available demographic data to the Department for fiscal year 2013. Additionally, the Department has conducted a survey of a hundred percent of students enrolled in online schools and compiled additional information from other resources to supplement the survey data. The Department determined as of January 11, 2013, that neither IACA nor IAVA is a Home School Assistance Program (HSAP) as defined by Iowa Code section 299.2A. Furthermore, the evidence submitted supports that IACA and IAVA are continuing to operate schools with educational instruction and course content delivered primarily over the internet. It is the Department's recommendation, based on a review of the data collected, the continued delivery of instruction primarily over the internet pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.7(33)"c" be allowed.

APPENDIX A

DEMOGRAPHIC, ACHIEVEMENT DATA,  
RETENTION RATES, AND PARTICIPATION

### Appendix A: Demographic Data

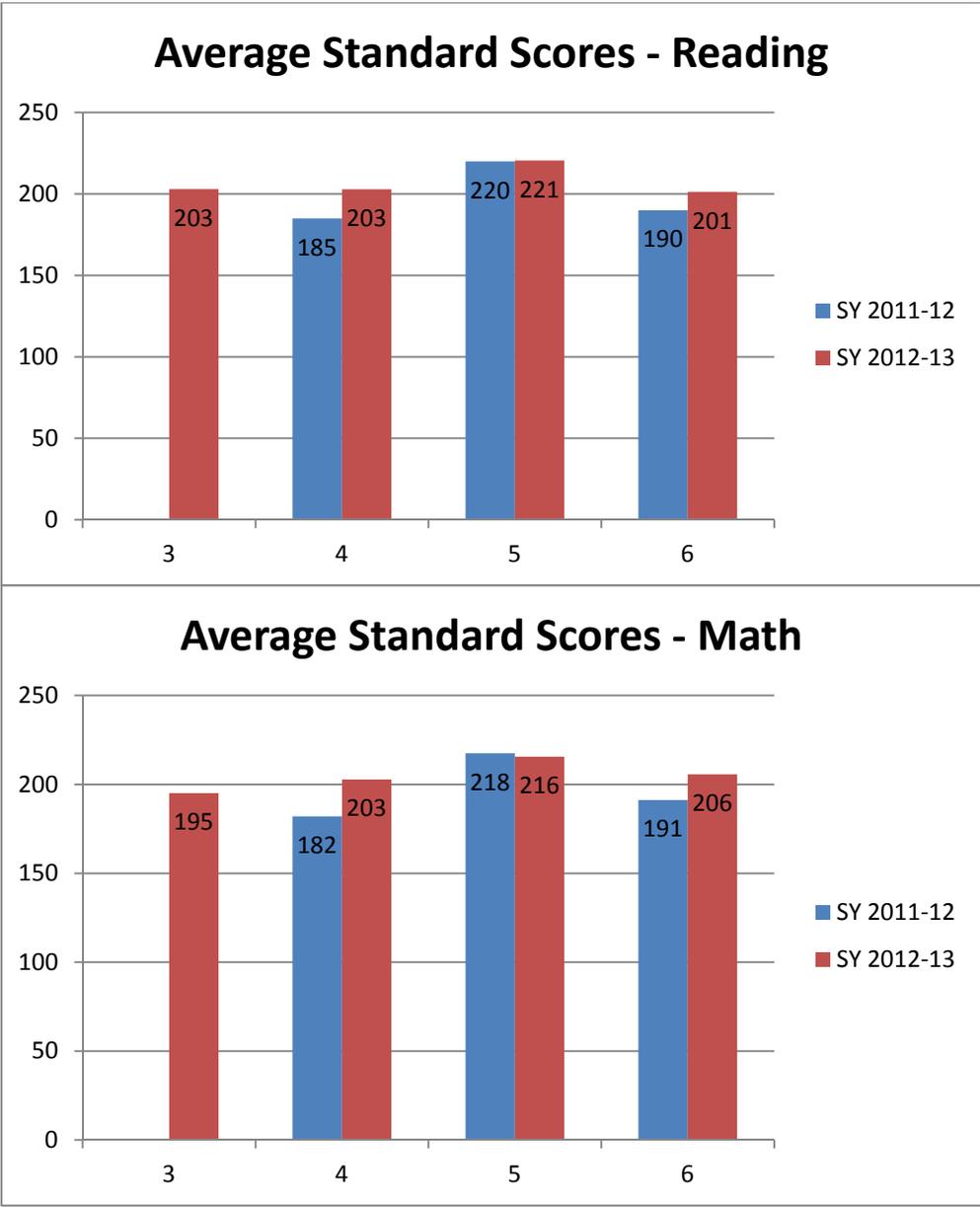
Characteristic	IAVA	IACA
Enrollment	190	350
Gender		
Male	95	175
Female	95	175
Race and Ethnicity		
White	13	332
African-American	*	13
Hispanic	*	16
Asian	*	*
Native American	*	*
Pacific Islander	*	*
Multiracial	0	0
Other Characteristics	*	0
English Language Learner	0	0
Disability	16	38
Free-Reduced Lunch Eligible	93	139

Note: An asterisk (\*) indicates that there are fewer than ten students in that particular cell. No data will be publicly reported for those cells, to protect student privacy pursuant to state and federal law.

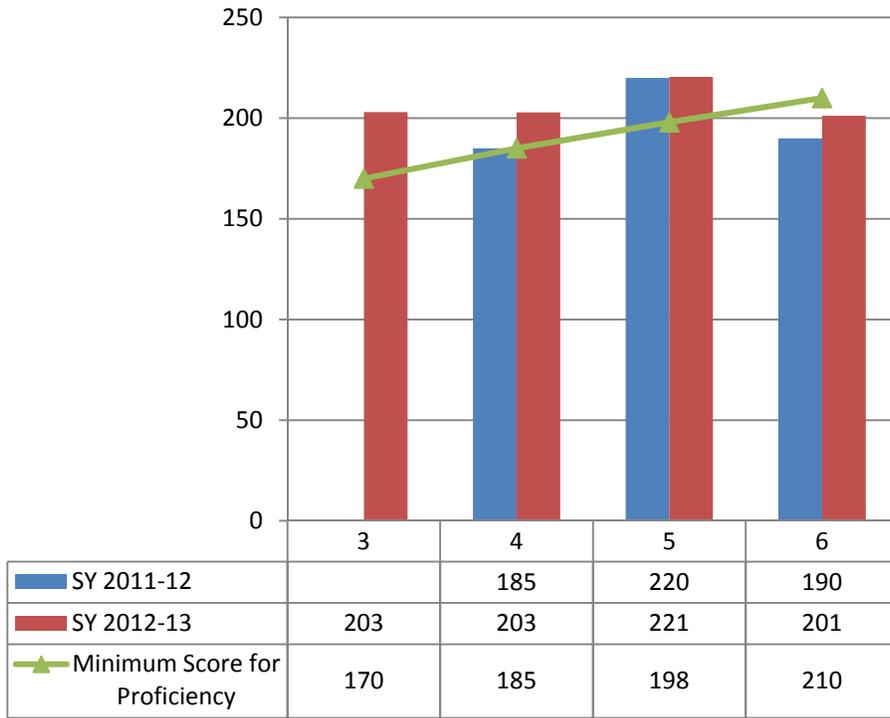
#### IAVA Retention Rates, Achievement Data, and Participation

- K-12 re-registration rate for SY13-14?  
IAVA had a re-registration rate of 88.5% (54 of the school's final 61 students reregistered)
- K-12 in-year retention rate for SY12-13?  
IAVA had an in-year retention rate for of 83.3% (16.7% withdrawal rate)

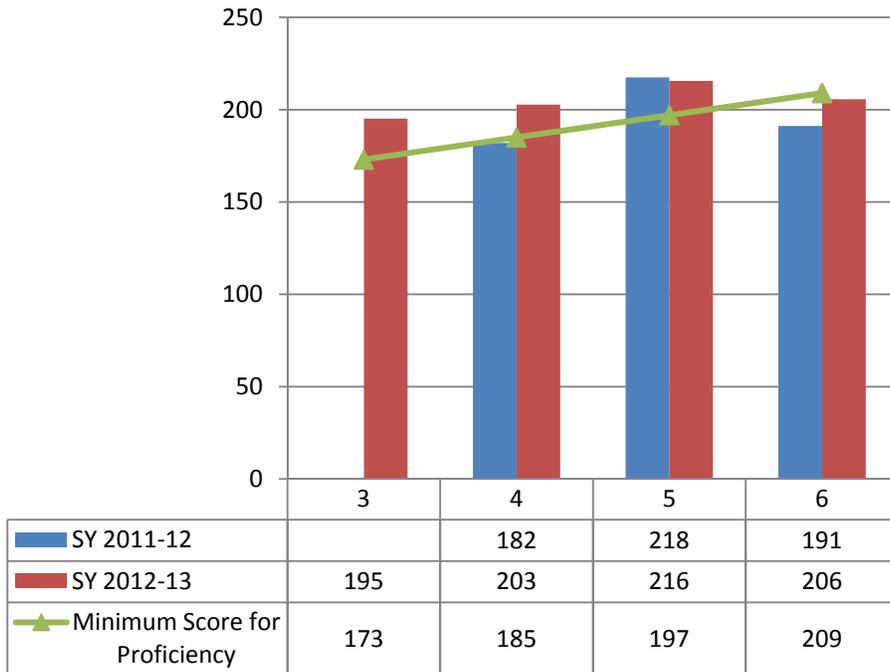
Comparison of Average Standard Scores on the Iowa Assessments for Grades 3 – 6 for School Years 11 – 12 and 12 - 13



## Average Standard Scores - Reading



## Average Standard Scores - Math





**2013-14**  
**Iowa Connections Academy**  
**Annual Report**

**\*\*\*\*\*All Data Pulled on October 31, 2013\*\*\*\*\***

*The mission of Iowa Connections Academy is to help each student maximize his or her potential and meet the highest performance standards through a uniquely individualized learning program.*

**Iowa Connections Academy  
Enrollment Information 2013-14**

Enrollment Data									
Grade Distribution		EOY 12-13		10/31/2012		9/30/2013		10/31/2013	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	KG	10	4%	13	5%	15	4%	14	4%
	1	4	2%	7	3%	11	3%	11	3%
	2	8	4%	11	5%	6	2%	5	1%
	3	7	3%	8	3%	13	4%	13	4%
	4	11	5%	12	5%	16	5%	16	5%
	5	14	6%	14	6%	23	7%	23	7%
	6	21	9%	21	9%	25	7%	25	7%
	7	24	11%	20	8%	25	7%	25	7%
	8	26	12%	30	13%	48	14%	48	14%
	9	49	22%	46	19%	54	15%	57	16%
	10	26	12%	27	11%	69	20%	77	22%
	11	17	8%	18	8%	33	9%	26	7%
	12	9	4%	10	4%	13	4%	10	3%
<b>New/Returning to CA</b>									
	New	226	100%	237	100%	189	54%	190	54%
	Returning	0	0%	0	0%	162	46%	160	46%
<b>Current Month Enrollment</b>		226	N/A	237	N/A	351	N/A	350	N/A
<b>Total Enrollment (YTD)</b>		338	N/A	292	N/A	411	N/A	420	N/A

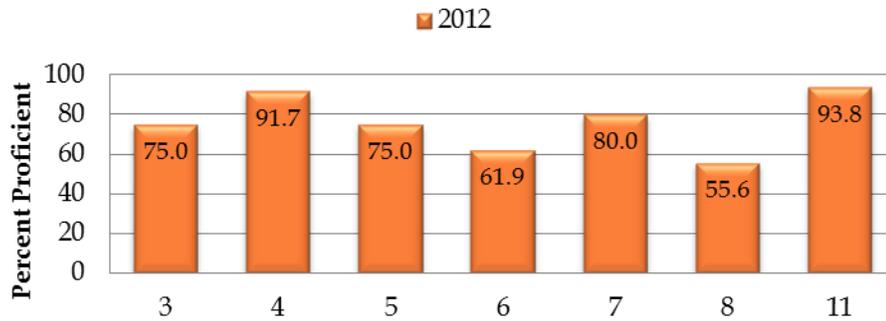
**Iowa Connections Academy  
Student Demographics SY 2013-14**

Demographic Data									
		EOY 12-13		10/31/2012		9/30/2013		10/31/2013	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Ethnicity</b>									
	Hispanic or Latino	11	5%	12	5%	15	4%	16	5%
	Not Hispanic or Latino	215	95%	225	95%	336	96%	334	95%
<b>Race</b>									
	Asian	1	0%	1	0%	9	3%	9	3%
	Black/African American	11	5%	14	6%	13	4%	13	4%
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%
	American Indian or Alaskan Native	8	4%	12	5%	9	3%	9	3%
	White	212	94%	222	94%	333	95%	332	95%
<b>Gender</b>									
	Female	119	53%	129	54%	175	50%	175	50%
	Male	107	47%	108	46%	176	50%	175	50%
<b>FARM Eligibility</b>									
	Qualifies for Free	80	35%	95	40%	115	33%	113	32%
	Qualifies for Reduced	14	6%	20	8%	27	8%	26	7%
<b>Prior Schooling</b>									
	Charter School (Public)	6	3%	5	2%	9	3%	9	3%
	Home School	56	25%	70	30%	67	19%	67	19%
	No Prior School	24	11%	17	7%	35	10%	34	10%
	Online (Virtual) Public School	11	5%	10	4%	17	5%	16	5%
	Prior Schooling Not Reported	1	0%	2	1%	3	1%	3	1%
	Private/Parochial School	13	6%	14	6%	17	5%	17	5%
	Public School	115	51%	119	50%	203	58%	204	58%
<b>Special Populations</b>									
	504	13	6%	7	3%	19	5%	23	7%
	Gifted	24	11%	18	8%	25	7%	25	7%
	IEP	20	9%	26	11%	36	10%	38	11%
	None	173	77%	188	79%	271	77%	264	75%

# 2012-13 State Assessment Results

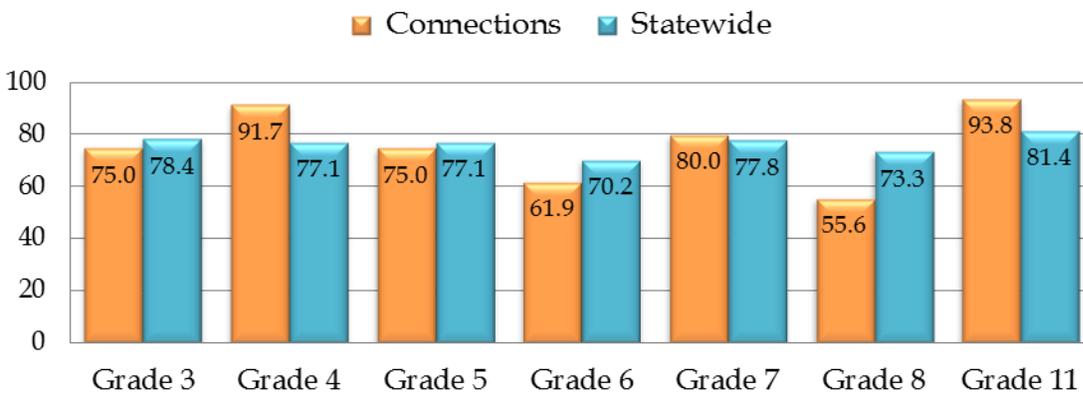
## Mathematics

### Math Proficiency



IACA Math Proficiency SY 1213							
Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8	11
N	8	12	12	21	20	27	16
%	75.0	91.7	75.0	61.9	80.0	55.6	93.8

### 2012 Math State Test Proficiency: Connections vs. Statewide Results



IACA vs Iowa Statewide Math Proficiency SY 1213							
Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8	11
IACA	75.0	91.7	75.0	61.9	80.0	55.6	93.8
Iowa Statewide	78.4	77.1	77.1	70.2	77.8	73.3	81.4

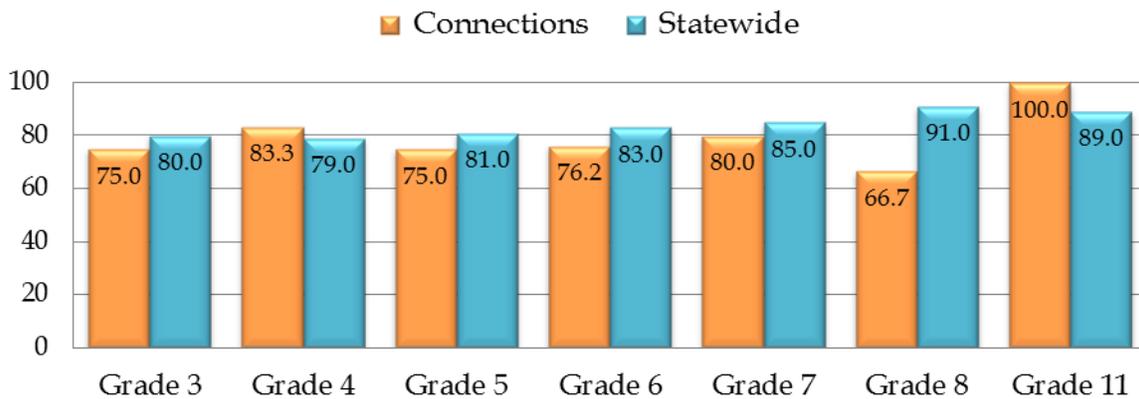
Reading

## Reading Proficiency



IACA Reading Proficiency SY 1213							
Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8	11
N	8	12	12	21	20	27	16
%	75.0	83.3	75.0	76.2	80.0	66.7	100.0

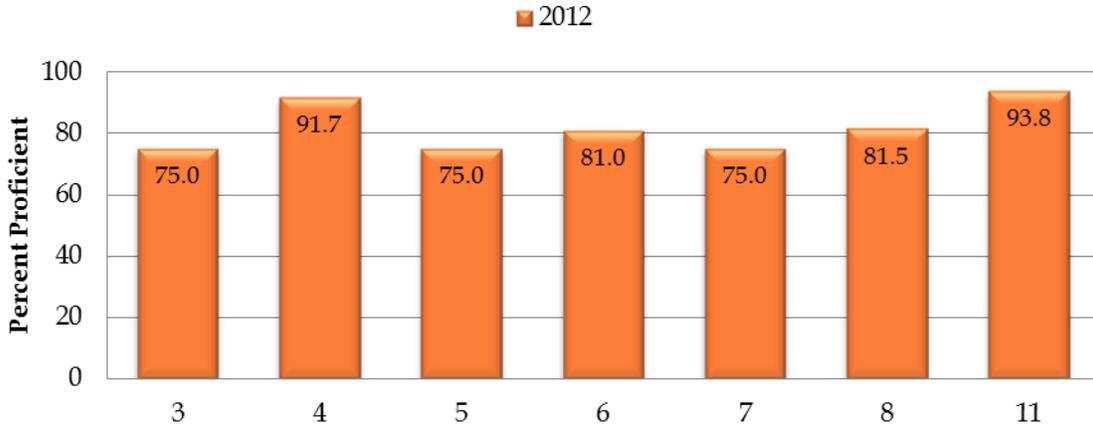
## 2012 Reading State Test Proficiency: Connections vs. Statewide Results



IACA vs Iowa Statewide Reading Proficiency SY 1213							
Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8	11
IACA	75.0	83.3	75.0	76.2	80.0	66.7	100.0
IACA Statewide	80.0	79.0	81.0	83.0	85.0	91.0	89.0

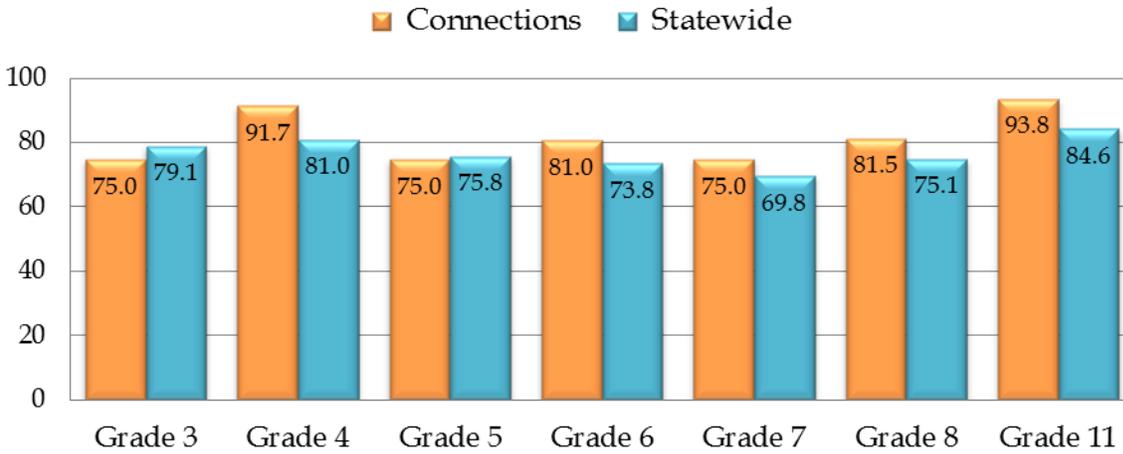
Science

## Science Proficiency



IACA Science Proficiency SY 1213							
Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8	11
N	8	12	12	21	20	27	16
%	75.0	91.7	75.0	81.0	75.0	81.5	93.8

### 2012 Science State Test Proficiency: Connections vs Statewide Results



IACA vs. Statewide Science Proficiency SY 1213							
Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8	11
IACA	75.0	91.7	75.0	81.0	75.0	81.5	93.8
Iowa Statewide	79.1	81.0	75.8	73.8	69.8	75.1	84.6

### 2012-13 IACA College/University Acceptances

Four Year Colleges

- Upper Iowa University

**Two Year Colleges**

- New Hampshire Technical Institute, New Hampshire Community College, Concord, New Hampshire
- Northeast Iowa Community College  
Scott Community College

## IACA Club Participation

<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Total Number of Students Enrolled</b>	<b>Percent of Total Enrollment</b>
Advanced Chess	7	2%
Art Club I	9	2.5%
Art Club II	5	1.4%
Arts and Crafts	3	0.8%
Book Club I	5	1.4%
Brainteasers Club	5	1.4%
Broadcast Club	1	0.2%
College Planning Club	4	1.1%
Debate Club	5	1.4%
Digital Storytelling Club	3	0.8%
Environmental Club	5	1.4%
First Generation Club	2	0.5%
Gaming & Technology	7	2%
Introduction to Chess	7	2%
Math Club I Olympiad	2	0.5%
Math Club II Olympiad	2	0.5%
Movie Club I	2	0.5%
Movie Club II	4	1.1%
Music Club I	1	0.2%
Music Club II	5	1.4%
Pen Pal Club	9	2.5%
Pens and Lens	6	1.7%
Poetry Corner	2	0.5%
Quiz Bowl	5	1.4%
Robotics Club I	8	2.2%
Robotics Club II	3	0.8%
Science Club	3	0.8%
Science in the Kitchen	2	0.5%
Student Leadership	4	1.1%
Theater Club	4	1.1%

APPENDIX B

SURVEY DATA

### 1. Which of the online schools do you go to?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Clayton Ridge (Iowa Virtual Academy)		47.2%	17
CAM (Iowa Connections Academy)		52.8%	19
<b>answered question</b>			<b>36</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>0</b>

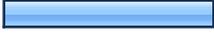
### 2. What grade are you in?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Kindergarten		33.3%	12
1st Grade		33.3%	12
2nd Grade		13.9%	5
3rd Grade		19.4%	7
<b>answered question</b>			<b>36</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>0</b>

### 3. Do you start school at the same time every day?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		71.4%	25
No		22.9%	8
I don't know		5.7%	2
answered question			35
skipped question			1

### 4. Do you need to tell your teacher or principal if you will be late or absent from school?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		54.3%	19
No		14.3%	5
I don't know		31.4%	11
answered question			35
skipped question			1

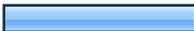
## 5. How long are your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 30 minutes each		0.0%	0
About 30 minutes each		25.7%	9
<b>About an hour each</b>		<b>51.4%</b>	<b>18</b>
More than an hour each		8.6%	3
I don't know		14.3%	5
<b>answered question</b>			<b>35</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

## 6. How many classes do you have each day?

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		2.9%	1
2		0.0%	0
3		2.9%	1
4		11.4%	4
<b>5</b>		<b>34.3%</b>	<b>12</b>
6		22.9%	8
7		14.3%	5
8		5.7%	2
More than 8		2.9%	1
I don't know		2.9%	1
<b>answered question</b>			<b>35</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

### 7. Do you finish school at the same time every day?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		65.7%	23
No		28.6%	10
I don't know		5.7%	2
answered question			35
skipped question			1

### 8. How long is your school day?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 4 hours (less than half a day)		2.9%	1
4 hours or more (half a day or more)		85.7%	30
I don't know		11.4%	4
answered question			35
skipped question			1

### 9. If you were bullied by someone on your computer or phone, would you know how to report it to your school?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		68.6%	24
No		31.4%	11
answered question			35
skipped question			1

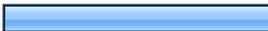
**10. Who usually teaches you during school? Check all of the answers that are right for you.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
My teacher		17.1%	6
<b>My mom or dad</b>		<b>85.7%</b>	<b>30</b>
Another adult in my family		0.0%	0
Someone else		2.9%	1
I don't know		2.9%	1
<b>answered question</b>			<b>35</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

**11. During your classes, does your teacher spend time talking to you and showing you how to do the things you are learning?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		77.1%	27
No		17.1%	6
I don't know		5.7%	2
<b>answered question</b>			<b>35</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

### 12. Do you work in groups with other students during or outside class?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		48.6%	17
No		40.0%	14
I don't know		11.4%	4
answered question			35
skipped question			1

### 13. Do you have time to work on your own during any of your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		77.1%	27
No		8.6%	3
I don't know		14.3%	5
answered question			35
skipped question			1

### 14. Is there time to study during any of your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		85.7%	30
No		8.6%	3
I don't know		5.7%	2
answered question			35
skipped question			1

### 15. Are you called on to answer questions during your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		77.1%	27
No		14.3%	5
I don't know		8.6%	3
<b>answered question</b>			<b>35</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

### 16. Can you ask questions during your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		80.0%	28
No		2.9%	1
I don't know		17.1%	6
<b>answered question</b>			<b>35</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

### 17. Do you know how well you are doing in your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		88.2%	30
No		2.9%	1
I don't know		8.8%	3
<b>answered question</b>			<b>34</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>2</b>

**18. If you need help with your work, who do you ask? Check all of the answers that are right for you.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
My teacher		11.4%	4
<b>My mom or dad</b>		<b>94.3%</b>	<b>33</b>
Another adult in my family		0.0%	0
Someone else		0.0%	0
I don't know who to ask for help		2.9%	1
<b>answered question</b>			<b>35</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

**19. Do you know what your teacher expects you to learn in your classes?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		<b>80.0%</b>	<b>28</b>
No		20.0%	7
<b>answered question</b>			<b>35</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

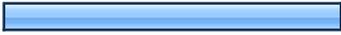
### 1. Which of the online schools do you go to?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Clayton Ridge (Iowa Virtual Academy)		33.3%	50
<b>CAM (Iowa Connections Academy)</b>		<b>66.7%</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>answered question</b>			<b>150</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>27</b>

### 2. What grade are you in?

		Response Percent	Response Count
4th grade		8.1%	14
5th grade		7.6%	13
6th grade		11.6%	20
7th grade		11.0%	19
<b>8th grade</b>		<b>20.9%</b>	<b>36</b>
9th grade		11.6%	20
10th grade		18.0%	31
11th grade		9.3%	16
12th grade		1.7%	3
<b>answered question</b>			<b>172</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>5</b>

### 3. Do you start school at the same time every day?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		43.9%	76
No		50.9%	88
I don't know		5.2%	9
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>173</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>4</b>

### 4. Do you need to tell your teacher or principal if you will be late or absent from school?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		50.0%	86
No		37.2%	64
I don't know		12.8%	22
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>172</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>5</b>

## 5. How long are your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 30 minutes each		1.7%	3
About 30 minutes each		28.9%	50
<b>About an hour each</b>		<b>48.0%</b>	<b>83</b>
More than an hour each		10.4%	18
I don't know		11.0%	19
<b>answered question</b>			<b>173</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>4</b>

## 6. How many classes do you have each day?

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		0.6%	1
2		0.0%	0
3		0.6%	1
4		5.8%	10
5		19.1%	33
<b>6</b>		<b>33.5%</b>	<b>58</b>
7		17.3%	30
8		8.7%	15
More than 8		2.9%	5
I don't know		11.6%	20
<b>answered question</b>			<b>173</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>4</b>

### 7. Do you finish school at the same time every day?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		18.1%	31
No		78.9%	135
I don't know		2.9%	5
<b>answered question</b>			<b>171</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>6</b>

### 8. How long is your school day?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 4 hours (less than half a day)		8.1%	14
4 hours or more (half a day or more)		86.7%	150
I don't know		5.2%	9
<b>answered question</b>			<b>173</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>4</b>

### 9. If you were bullied by someone on your computer or phone, would you know how to report it to your school?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		87.3%	151
No		12.7%	22
<b>answered question</b>			<b>173</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>4</b>

**10. Who usually teaches you during school? Check all of the answers that are right for you.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
My teacher		66.3%	112
<b>My mom or dad</b>		<b>73.4%</b>	<b>124</b>
Another adult in my family		12.4%	21
Someone else		12.4%	21
I don't know		3.6%	6
<b>answered question</b>			<b>169</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>8</b>

**11. During your classes, does your teacher spend time talking to you and showing you how to do the things you are learning?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		69.4%	118
No		21.2%	36
I don't know		9.4%	16
<b>answered question</b>			<b>170</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>7</b>

### 12. Do you work in groups with other students during or outside class?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		29.0%	49
No		66.3%	112
I don't know		4.7%	8
answered question			169
skipped question			8

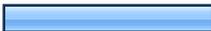
### 13. Do you have time to work on your own during any of your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		97.0%	164
No		0.6%	1
I don't know		2.4%	4
answered question			169
skipped question			8

### 14. Is there time to study during any of your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		85.9%	146
No		7.6%	13
I don't know		6.5%	11
answered question			170
skipped question			7

### 15. Are you called on to answer questions during your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		58.0%	98
No		31.4%	53
I don't know		10.7%	18
<b>answered question</b>			<b>169</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>8</b>

### 16. Can you ask questions during your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		88.2%	150
No		5.3%	9
I don't know		6.5%	11
<b>answered question</b>			<b>170</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>7</b>

### 17. Do you know how well you are doing in your classes?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		92.9%	158
No		3.5%	6
I don't know		3.5%	6
<b>answered question</b>			<b>170</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>7</b>

**18. If you need help with your work, who do you ask? Check all of the answers that are right for you.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
My teacher		83.5%	142
<b>My mom or dad</b>		<b>88.8%</b>	<b>151</b>
Another adult in my family		25.9%	44
Someone else		18.8%	32
I don't know who to ask for help		0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>			<b>170</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>7</b>

**19. Do you know what your teacher expects you to learn in your classes?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		<b>89.9%</b>	<b>152</b>
No		10.1%	17
<b>answered question</b>			<b>169</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>8</b>